

NOTICES OF INTENT TO SUSPEND
THE RULES

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I submit the following notice in writing: In accordance with Rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby give notice in writing that it is my intention to move to suspend paragraph 4(b)(3) of Rule XXVIII for the purpose of proposing to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3043), making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; as follows:

To the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 3043.

Insert in the appropriate place:

SEC. _____. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of funds made available under the heading "**OFFICE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES: GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION**" under the heading "Institute of Museum and Library Services" in title IV may be used for the Bethel Performing Arts Center.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I submit the following notice in writing: In accordance with Rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby give notice in writing that it is my intention to move to suspend paragraph 4(b)(3) of Rule XXVIII for the purpose of proposing to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3043), making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds made available under the heading "OFFICE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES: GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION" under the heading "INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES" in title IV may be used for for the Bethel Performing Arts Center.

NOTICE OF HEARING

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs will hold a hearing entitled, "Medicaid Providers That Cheat on Their Taxes and What Can Be Done About It." More than 30,000 Medicaid providers owe more than \$1 billion in unpaid Federal taxes, according to a recent investigation conducted by the Government Accountability Office at the request of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. The GAO study included only 7 States, which means the total number of Medicaid providers that cheat on their taxes could be considerably higher. The Subcommittee's November 14 hearing will cover the extent of the problem, as well as possible solutions. Witnesses for the upcoming hearing will include representatives of the

Government Accountability Office, the Internal Revenue Service, the Financial Management Service, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. A final witness list will be available Friday, November 9, 2007.

The Subcommittee hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, November 14, 2007, at 2:30 p.m., in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at 224-9505.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO
MEETCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 6, 2007, at 10 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on whether domestic energy industry will have the available workforce, crafts and professional, to meet our Nation's growing energy needs and if gaps exist, what policies the Congress should take to address these gaps.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 6, 2007, at 2:30 p.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, in order to hear testimony on the "GOP and WEP: policies affecting pensions from work not covered by Social Security."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, in order to conduct an Executive business meeting on Tuesday, November 6, 2007. The hearing will commence at 10 a.m. in room 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Agenda: Nomination of Michael B. Mukasey to be Attorney General of the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs to be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 6, 2007, in order to conduct an oversight hearing on the hiring practices and quality control in VA medical facilities. The Committee will meet in room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 6, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. in order to hold a closed hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I ask unanimous consent that Alan Mackey and Patty Lawrence, detailees from the U.S. Department of Agriculture on my committee staff, be granted the privilege of the floor for today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Caryn Long of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of the Senate's consideration of the farm bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 371, the nomination of Patrick Francis Kennedy, to be Under Secretary of State; that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Patrick Francis Kennedy, of Illinois, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management).

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO
ESCORT HIS EXCELLENCY, THE
HONORABLE NICOLAS SARKOZY,
PRESIDENT OF FRANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the President pro tempore of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France, into the House Chamber for a joint meeting at 11 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, November 7, 2007.